

Message Text

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71-62

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TAR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00

INT-05 L-03 DLOS-04 CG-00 DOTE-00 IO-10 TRSE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 /091 W

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P R 171730Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5787

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1312

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS IC UK

SUBJECT: FISHERIES TALKS WITH UK BREAK OFF IN STALEMATE

1. MINISTERIAL-LEVEL FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ICELAND AND UK ENDED IN APPARENT DEADLOCK THIS MORNING AFTER 40-MINUTE FORMAL SESSION. BOTH SIDES ISSUED UNUSUALLY EXPLICIT PUBLIC STATEMENTS UPON CONCLUSION OF MEETING.

2. FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON TOLD PRESS THAT TALKS HAD BROKEN DOWN OVER SIZE OF TOTAL CATCH TO BE ALLOWED UK IN ICELANDIC WATERS. GOI HAD OFFERED 65,000 TONS ANNUALLY, SAID AGUSTSSON, ON CONDITION THAT UK ACKNOWLEDGE ICELAND'S CLAIMED FISHERIES JURISDICTION AND FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICELAND-EEC TARIFF AGREEMENT. BRITISH, ACCORDING TO AGUSTSSON, INSISTED ON 110,000 ANNUAL

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TONNAGE AND REFUSED TO YIELD ON THIS FIGURE. CONSEQUENTLY, FONMIN

SAID, THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM FURTHER DISCUSSIONS,
AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY. QUESTION OF AREA(S)
THAT WOULD BE OPEN TO BRITISH FISHING HAD NOT COME UP.

3. UK MINISTER OF STATE HATTERSLEY, IN BRIEF REMARKS TO PRESS
FOLLOWING MEETING, SAID HE HOPED BRITISH FISHERMEN COULD
CONTINUE FISHING AS BEFORE, BUT HE WANTED ICELAND TO BE ON NOTICE
THAT TRAWLERS WOULD BE PROTECTED IF HARASSED. HATTERSLEY WAS
DUE TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE LATER IN DAY.

4. ON SATURDAY, ICELANDIC COAST GUARD HAD CUT NETS OF TWO BRITISH
TRAWLERS FOUND FISHING 33 AND 35 MILES FROM COAST. VESSELS HAD,
ACCORDING TO COAST GUARD, IGNORED REPEATED WARNINGS TO STOP FISHING
IN AREA. INCIDENTS WERE FIRST SINCE ICELAND-UK AGREEMENT RAN OUT
NOVEMBER 13.
IRVING

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